## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Kiyokazu Kobayashi Applicant(s)

Continuation of Serial No.: 09/622,884

Filed Herewith

For METHOD OF JOINING STEEL MEMBERS, METHOD OF

PROCESSING JOINED SURFACE OF STEEL MEMBER

AND REINFORCING MEMBER

Examiner L. Edmondson

Group Art Unit 1725

> 745 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10151 July 2, 2003

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination in this application, please amend this application

as follows: